



HAC News

OMNIBUS FUNDING FOR 2008 EXPECTED TO PASS. The House and Senate have passed an omnibus appropriations bill that will fund most of the federal government, including USDA and HUD, for fiscal 2008. At press time, the House is expected to accept Iraq funding added by the Senate and President Bush is expected to sign the measure. ♦ **USDA.** The omnibus bill cuts some USDA rural housing programs while others are at higher levels than in 2007. Section 502 guaranteed loans rise sharply to \$4.22 billion, with Congress urging their use as an alternative to subprime mortgages. Section 523 self-help housing increases to \$39 million. Like the House and Senate bills passed earlier this year, the omnibus bill rejects the very deep budget cuts for rural housing programs that were proposed in the Administration's 2008 budget, though it does cut Section 515 rental loans, rental assistance, and farm labor housing loans and grants. The table below has details. ♦ **HUD.** (See page 2 for summary.)

USDA Rural Development Program (dollars in millions)	FY 2007 Approp.^a (H.J. Res. 20)	FY 2008 Proposed Budget	FY 2008 Senate Bill (S. 1859)	FY 2008 House Bill (H.R. 3161)	FY 2008 Omnibus Bill (H.R. 2764)
Loans					
502 Single-Family Direct	\$1,141	\$0	\$1,129.4	\$1,129.4	\$1,129.4
502 Single-Family Guaranteed	3,681	4,848	3,561.1	3,716.4	4,220
504 Very Low-Income Repair	35	22.9	34.7	34.7	34.7
514 Farm Labor Housing	38	14	27.7	50	27.7
515 Rental Housing Direct	100	0	70	99	70
538 Rental Housing Guar.	100	200	150	99	130
Grants & Payments					
504 Very Low-Income Repair	30	30	29.6	30	30
516 Farm Labor Hsg. Grants	14	4	10	25	10
523 Self-Help TA	34	9.5	38	40	39
533 Housing Preserv. Grants	10	9	9.9	9	9
521 Rental Assistance	616*	567*	497*	533*	482.1*
542 Rural Housing Vouchers	16	27.8	15.5	10	5
Rental Preserv. Revlvg Loans	3	0	2.9	3	3
Rental Preservation Demo.	9	0	15	14.8	20
Rural Cmnty. Dev't Init. (RCDI)	6	0	6.3	0	6.3

* Rental Assistance contracts were for two years in most of FY 2007. The 2008 omnibus funds one-year contracts.

HUD Program (in millions of dollars)	FY 2007 Appr.^a (H.J. Res. 20)	FY 2008 Proposed Budget	FY 2008 House Bill (H.R. 3074)	FY 2008 Sen. Bill (H.R. 3074)	FY 2008 Conf. Rpt. (H.R. 3074)	FY 2008 Omnibus Bill (H.R. 2764)
Cmnty. Dev't Block Grants	\$3,771.9	\$3,035.6	\$4,180	\$4,060	\$4,000	\$3,865.8
HOME (Foreclosure Mitig. Activities)	1,750 --	1,967 ^b --	1,757 --	1,970 (100)	1,767 ^b --	1,704 ..d
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	15,920	16,000	16,330	16,599	16,436	16,391
Project-Based Rental Assistance	5,976	5,813	6,480	5,813	6,382	6,381.8
Public Housing Capital Fund	2,464	2,024	2,439	2,500	2,439	2,439
Public Housing Operating Fund	3,864	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Public Hsg. Rvltztn. (HOPE VI)	99	0	120	100	120	100
Native Amer. Hsg. Block Grant	630	627	627	630	630	630
Homeless Assistance Grants	1,441.6	1,561	1,561	1,586	1,586	1,586
Hsg. Opps. for Persons w AIDS	289	300	300	300	300	300
202 Housing for the Elderly	734.6	575	734.6	735	735	735
811 Housing for Disabled	236.6	125	236.6	237	237	237
Fair Housing	45.5	45	45.5	52	50	50
Rural Hsg. & Ec. Dev't (RHED)	17	0	16.8	17	17	17
Self-Help Hmshp. Opp. (SHOP)	19.8	39	27.7	26.5	26.5	26.5
Lead Hazard Control	152	116	130	151	145	145
Housing Counseling	44.5	50 ^c	41.6	150	50 ^c	50 ^c

a. Figures shown for FY 2007 are before 1% across the board cut.

b. \$200 million in counseling and foreclosure prevention activities is provided to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp.

c. Housing counseling funding is under the HOME program.

d. Foreclosure prevention activities moved to appropriation for Neighborhood Reinvestment (not in HUD).

◆ **HUD.** The omnibus appropriation cuts CDBG, HOME, and Section 8 vouchers below the levels in the earlier House and Senate 2008 spending bills. Most other HUD programs retain 2007 funding levels or the increases won in Congress earlier this year. HUD's rural housing program receives \$17 million, the same as in 2007. SHOP rises from \$19.8 million in 2007 to \$26.5 million in 2008. ◆ The text of the House's omnibus bill is available at http://www.rules.house.gov/110_fy08_omni.htm and the final law will be posted at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app08.html>. Updates will be posted on HAC's site, <http://www.ruralhome.org>, as available.

RD REMOVES THERMAL STANDARDS FOR EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING. Thermal standards for new construction, generally prescribed by building and energy codes, are not affected. See *Federal Register*, 12/11/07, pp. 70220-22 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact Michel Mitias, RD, 202-720-9653, michel.mitias@wdc.usda.gov.

OMB SEEKS COMMENTS ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT FORMAT. OMB is establishing a standard financial reporting format for recipients of federal grants and cooperative agreements, consolidating four existing forms into a single Federal Financial Report. Comments are due January 7. See *Federal Register*, 12/07/07, pp. 69236-57 at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>. Contact Marguerite Pridgen, 202-395-7844, mpridgen@omb.eop.gov.

FEDERAL RESERVE PROPOSES CONSUMER LENDING PROTECTIONS. The comment period will end 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. The proposal is online at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/bcreg/20071218a.htm>. Contact Kathleen C. Ryan, Fed, 202-452-2412.

HUD SETS EZ STANDARDS. Planning and performance standards for Empowerment Zones grants are intended to ensure that activities are consistent with the EZs' strategic plans. See *Federal Register*, 12/13/07, pp. 71007-18, or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact Lorraine H. Drolet, HUD, 202-708-6339.

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS FUNDS OFFERED TO PHAS. Deadline is February 15. See *Federal Register*, 12/11/07, pp. 70457-70 or <http://www.grants.gov>. Public and Indian Housing Info Center, 1-800-955-2232.

RURAL PEOPLE, RURAL POLICY INITIATIVE PROPOSALS INVITED. January 25 is the deadline for new proposals to join the Kellogg Foundation initiative, which builds networks for policy change. Information and applications are at <http://www.wkkf.org/rprp>. Contact Caroline Carpenter, 269-969-2262, caroline.carpenter@wkkf.org.

PAPER RANKS LOW-INCOME CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING BY STATE. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual Kids Count reports consider all children; a recent working paper focusing on only low-income children finds the best performing states are mostly in the upper Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, while the worst are clustered on the East Coast and in the Mid-Atlantic. Visit <http://www.kidscount.org> or contact AECF, 410-547-6600.

VETERANS ARE DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF HOMELESS. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports the number of homeless veterans has increased slightly. *Vital Mission: Ending Homelessness Among Veterans* includes state-level data as well as policy recommendations. Visit <http://www.naeh.org/section/data> for this report and a law review article entitled *Deficiencies of Housing Policies for Veterans*.